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Kwanzaa Celebration to be Held

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – A dinner celebrating Kwanzaa will be held on Thursday, December 3, at 6 p.m. in the Davidson Room of Memorial Center (104 University St, Bloomington).

The event is open to the local and Illinois Wesleyan Community.

During the dinner, the Black Student Union will give an informational presentation on the holiday. Guest speaker, “TRUTH Minista” Paul Scott will also speak on the commercialization of Kwanzaa and the importance of getting back to the roots of the holiday.

Kwanzaa is an African-American and Pan-African holiday celebrated from December 26 to January 1. With origins in the first harvest celebrations of Africa, Kwanzaa celebrates family, community, and culture. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase “matunda ya kanza” which means “first fruits” in the Pan-African language Swahili, the most widely spoken African language.

It celebrates what are called “The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa,” or “Nguzo Saba.” These principles are; umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kumba (creativity), and imani (faith).

“Our students need exposure to other cultures,” said Roshaunda Ross, director of Multicultural Student Affairs.

For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs at (309) 556-3412.

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